

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN

SUBJECT: NAZI WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATIONS

1. IN FEBRUARY 1978, THE GENERAL COUNSEL OF IMMIGRATION AND
NATURALIZATION SERVICE FORMED A "SPECIAL LITIGATION UNIT"
TO PROSECUTE ALL CASES INVOLVING DEPORTATION AND/OR
DENATURALIZATION OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES
ACCUSED OF COMMITTING NAZI WAR CRIMES DURING WWII.
MR. MARTIN MENDELSON IS CHARGED WITH COORDINATING THE
HANDLING OF THESE CASES IN THE DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE U.S.
ATTORNEYS AS WELL AS PROSECUTING SOME FROM THE CENTRAL
OFFICE. THE SPECIAL LITIGATION UNIT IS THE CENTRAL
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DECISION MAKER ON POLICY MATTERS WITH REGARD TO THESE
CASES.

2. PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SPECIAL LITIGATION
UNIT, THE CASES WERE HANDLED INDEPENDENTLY AT THE DISTRICT
OFFICE LEVEL BY THE U.S. ATTORNEYS. RECENTLY, A FORMER
INS INSPECTOR HAS BEEN TRAVELING ABROAD, REPRESENTING

HIMSELF AS AN OFFICIAL OF A GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY
PROSECUTING NAZI WAR CRIMES AND HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY
FOREIGN OFFICIALS AND GIVEN EVIDENCE AND ASSISTANCE. IT
WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL MAY USE THE MATERIAL

GATHERED TO PUBLISH AND TO PUBLISIZE HIS ANTI-WAR CRIMES
WORK.

3. THE SPECIAL LITIGATION UNIT HAS REQUESTED THAT OUR
EMBASSIES IN POLAND, U.S.S.R., YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA
WRITE A NOTE TO THEIR RESPECTIVE HOST GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
HAVING TO DO WITH NAZI WAR CRIMES TO ASK THAT THEY RECEIVE
AND ASSIST ONLY THOSE OFFICIALS FROM THE UNITED STATES WHO
HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO THEM BY THE EMBASSY. ALTHOUGH
THIS IS REQUESTING NO MORE THAN A CAUTIOUS FOREIGN
GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO DO ANYWAY, THE
POTENTIAL FOR DIFFICULTY WITH THIS MATTER MAKES IT
NECESSARY TO MAKE A PARTICULAR POINT OF IT IN THE CASE OF
NAZI WAR CRIMES.

4. THE DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS SINCE THIS COULD BE A DELICATE
SITUATION, THAT THE ADDRESSEE EMBASSIES MIGHT PREFER TO
TENDER THIS MESSAGE, IN A RATHER GENERAL WAY, ORALLY
DURING AN APPROPRIATE MEETING WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT
REPRESENTATIVES WHO HANDLE THE NAZI CASE REQUESTS.

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5. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE THE ADDRESSEES
REACTIONS AND COMMENTS BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER. CHRISTOPHER

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